

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.(Cancelled)

2.(Cancelled)

3.(Cancelled)

4.(Cancelled)

5.(Cancelled)

6.(Cancelled)

7.(amended) A vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristic comprising:  
plural vehicle characteristic setting portions for setting the vehicle characteristic to a free arbitrary;  
a vehicle characteristic memory portion for memorizing said set vehicle characteristic; a vehicle characteristic setting selection portion for selecting an arbitrary vehicle characteristic from said vehicle characteristic memory portion, wherein each control unit for controlling the vehicle characteristic including a default characteristic memory portion for memorizing a default characteristic set upon production, a setting characteristic determining portion for determining

whether or not setting on said vehicle characteristic setting portion is valid and a selection switch which is changed over by said setting characteristic determining portion,

when said setting characteristic determining portion determines that the setting is valid, said selection switch being changed over so as to transmit the setting data of said vehicle characteristic setting portion to each of said control units and when said setting characteristic determining portion determines that the setting is invalid, said selection switch being changed over to transmit the memory data in said default characteristic memory portion to each of said control units.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (amended) A control apparatus of electric power steering unit for controlling a motor so as to provide a steering mechanism with steering assistance force base on a current instruction value computed based on a steering assist instruction value computed based on a steering torque generated in a steering shaft and a motor current detection value, said control apparatus comprising: a steering characteristic setting means which enables a vehicle driver to set up a steering characteristic

arbitrarily;

plural steering characteristic memory means for memorizing each steering characteristic set by said steering characteristic setting means;

a steering characteristic selecting means for selecting a desired steering characteristic from said memorized plural steering characteristics;

a default characteristic memory means for memorizing a default steering characteristic set upon production; and

a setting characteristic determining means for determining whether said steering characteristic is valid or invalid with reference to a preliminarily specified safety standard, wherein when it is determined that the setting is invalid by said setting characteristic determining means, said motor is controlled based on said default steering characteristic.

11.(amended) The control device of electric power steering unit according to claim 10 wherein a steering characteristic setting/selecting unit containing at least said steering characteristic setting means and the steering characteristic selecting means is connected to a current instruction arithmetic operating portion for computing said current instruction value through serial communication.

12.(amended) The control device of electric power steering unit according to claims 10 or 11 wherein said steering characteristic includes at least input/output characteristic and vehicle velocity responses characteristic.

13.(amended) The control device of electric power steering unit according to any of Claims 10 to 12 wherein GUI is employed as said steering characteristic setting means.

14.(amended) The vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristic according to claim 7 loaded with the control device of electric power steering unit described in any

of Claims 10 to 13.

15.(New) A vehicle capable of changing vehicle characteristic comprising plural vehicle characteristic setting portions for setting the vehicle characteristic to a free arbitrary;  
a vehicle characteristic memory portion for memorizing said set vehicle characteristic; a vehicle characteristic setting selection portion for selecting an arbitrary vehicle characteristic from said vehicle characteristic memory portion, said vehicle further comprising immobilizer, said vehicle characteristic setting selection portion being provided in said immobilizer while a key of said immobilizer is provided for each of said set plural vehicle characteristics.